

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 07101 061239Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 061212Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5964

INFO AMEMBASSY GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7101

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: LETTER TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ON OPIUM POPPY CONTROLS

REF STATE 192427

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SEPT 6
(OTHER SUBJECT BEING SEPARATELY REPORTED), I DELIVERED YOUR
MESSAGE ON OPIUM POPPY CONTROLS. AFTER READING IT THROUGH CAREFULLY,
HE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS
WRITTEN AND THAT HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT HE OR SOME OTHER VERY
SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TALK TO ME ABOUT
THEIR CONTROL PLANS ONCE THEIR OWN THINKING HAD CLARIFIED. HE SAID
THAT HE HOPED WHEN FM GUNES RETURNED NEXT WEEK HE WOULD BE
ABLE TO GO OVER THESE PLANS WITH HIM AND THEN PRESENT THEM TO
ME FOR COMMENT. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE HAD NOT HIMSELF
FOCUSSED ON THE SPECIFICS OF THESE PLANS AS YET.

2. I SAID THAT I HOPED THAT WHEN HE DID HE WOULD BEAR IN MIND
THE THREE AREAS TO WHICH WE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE.

3. THE FIRST OF THESE WAS LIMITING ACREAGE. I SAID THAT WE
WERE FRANKLY CONCERNED BY WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT THREE
TIMES AS MANY HECTARES WOULD BE SOWN WITH POPPIES THIS
YEAR AS COMPARED TO 1972 (THE LAST YEAR OF PLANTING), AND THAT
THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM BEING CONSIDERED WAS MORE OR LESS A REPLICA
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THE ONE EMPLOYED IN THAT LAST YEAR - A SYSTEM WHICH HAD NOT BEEN

ADEQUATE EVEN FOR THE SMALLER ACREAGE INVOLVED.

4. THE PRIME MIISTER SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE GROWING WAS TO BE LIMITED TO ONLY "THE POOREST FARMERS MOST IN NEED." I SAID MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THAT PHRASE WAS BEING VERY LIBERALLY INTERPRETED, AND THAT EXPECTATIONS WERE VERY HIGH IN THIS REGARD AMONG FARMERS IN THE OPIUM GROWING REGIONS.

5. SECONDLY, I STRESSED THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE CULTIVATION IN AREAS ACCESSIBLE TO MAIN ROADS.

6. THIRD, I EMPHASIZED THAT GOING AT ONCE TO 100 PERCENT STRAW PROCESSING WOULD BE ABOUT AS REASSURING A STEP AS ANYTHING THE GOT COULD ADOPT. I SAID I KNEW THIS WOULD REQUIRE EXPORTING THE STRAW THE FIRST YEAR, BUT I HOPED THAT DESPITE THIS THE GOVT WOULD OPT FOR THIS COURSE.

7. IN RESPONSE, THE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN SAID HE HAD NOT HAD CHANCE TO FOCUS ON ANY OF THIS, BUT WOULD DO SO PROMPTLY. WHEN I ASKED HIM TO GIVE ME THE NAME OF SOMEBODY I COULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ON DETAILS, AND WHO COULD SUBSEQUENTLY ACT AS A LIAISON ON THIS SUBJECT, HE SAID THAT FOR THE MOMENT HE WANTED TO HANDLE THIS HIMSELF AND THAT AFTER HE HAD HAD A CHANCE TO TALK WITH GUNES NEXT WEEK EITHER GUNES OR HE, PROBABLY HE, WOULD BE BACK IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH ME.

8. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION I INDICATED THAT SIR HARRY GREENFIELD HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE HIM WHILE HE WAS HERE, AND I URGED THAT SUCH AN APPOINTMENT BE ARRANGED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. THE PRIME MINISTER IMMEDIATELY AGREED, AND A MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED BETWEEN HIM AND SIR HARRY FOR 11 A.M. TOMORROW, SEPT 7.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, AGRICULTURAL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA07101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740247-1009
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740970/aaaachjg.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 192427
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ON OPIUM POPPY CONTROLS
TAGS: SNAR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005